

into my hand. Shortly afterwards, the bird seemed to show a little more interest in life and I placed it on a window cill out of reach of cats, and left it. In a short time it was gone, and a search below the window showed that it had not just dropped to the ground.

Some years ago, when my daughter was a schoolgirl, she brought in a blackbird which she had picked up in the garden, and from which a specimen of *S. hirundinis* dropped. This bird, too, showed signs of returning interest in life, and shortly afterwards it flew away.

These two cases leave me wondering whether this unpleasant looking insect does inject some narcotic into the bird's bloodstream while feeding. — S. N. A. JACOBS, 54, Hayes Lane, Bromley, Kent BR2 9EE, 2.x.1974.

DIARSIA ? FLORIDA (SCHMIDT) AND XANTHORHOE MUNITATA (HUBNER) IN SWALEDALE. — I stayed four nights, 28th to 31st July 1974, above Keld, at the head of Swaledale in Yorkshire North Riding. The house was on the 1,500 feet contour, with a wet, newly cut hayfield in front and moorland pasture behind; it was very exposed, and the weather was vile. The moth trap gave only 23 species, but two were of interest.

On 30th and 31st there were five fresh examples of a *Diarsia* species which I should like to call *D. florida* Schmidt because of their large size, pale pinkish colour, and date of capture, which is too early at that altitude for them to belong to a second brood of *D. rubi* Vieweg. They agree closely with my specimens from Inverness-shire, taken at Aviemore in early July and high above Dalwhinnie on 1st August. They also agree with the coloured illustrations of the typical form of *D. florida* from Askham Bog, which is a low level Yorkshire locality (*Ent. Gaz.*, 2:71 and Plate 1). But *D. florida* was introduced by Cockayne in 1950 as essentially a *fen* insect, as its present English name, Fen Square Spot, indicates. I am not sure if it is right to attach these montane and Highland insects to it, despite their similar appearance and single-brooded character; or whether it is not better to regard them, and perhaps the fen *D. florida* as well, as biological races of *D. rubi*. Comment would be welcome.

Three specimens of *Xanthorhoe munitata* also entered the trap, in all of which the usual pink central band was missing, the area between its defining lines being silvery grey like the rest of the forewing. Unfortunately, I thought that the first two were merely rain-washed, and released them; but the one which I kept is perfectly fresh. Since I saw none of the typical form this variant may be the local race. — R. F. BRETHERTON, Folly Hill, Birtley Green, Bramley, Surrey GU5 0LE.

THREE NOTABLE MICROLEPIDOPTERA AT BLACKHEATH, N.W. KENT. — *Apomyelois neophanes* Durr.: I was much surprised to find that a dark Phycitid which came to my m.v. lamp on 21.vi.59 could only be this very local insect. As its larval

pabulum, the black fungus *Daldinia*, appears to be scarce in this district — I have seen it but once, this year near Woolwich on an ash — the moth seemed likeliest to have been a casual vagrant; however, a second specimen was taken in the same way on 7.vii.70 (after a very hot day with the shade temperature up to 88°F. in London), making that idea perhaps, rather less plausible. The species seems, from the literature, to have some constant association with furze (*Ulex*), which does flourish on an outlying part of Blackheath. I am not aware of a previous Kent record of *A. neophanes*; Beirne (1954, *Brit. Pyralid and Plume Moths*: 107) gives only Surrey, Hants. (with Isle of Wight), Dorset and Devon for its distribution.

Infurcitinea argentimaculella Stt.: As Mr. E. S. Bradford (1971, *Ent. Rec.*, **83**: 342) has asked for records of this interesting little moth, I should mention having taken a specimen as long ago as 3.viii.56, flying against and settling on a fence in Blackheath Park (a residential tree-lined road); the exact spot was barely 50 yards from my former front garden. The determination was carefully checked by Mr. S. Wakely. I have never met with it again and indeed should not expect a lichen-feeder to inhabit a London suburb; the Clean Air Act, which may ultimately recreate conditions suitable for them, was not then in force here. There are, however, old records of *I. argentimaculella* for N.W. Kent: in "Woolwich Surveys" (1909), p. 404, it is reported from Blackheath, Eltham, and Sidcup (Bower) and Dartford Heath (Stainton), and as being scarce. Mr. Bradford (*antea*: 170) gives only two present-day Kent localities, East Blean and Folkestone, both of course at the other end of the county.

Mompha nodicolella Fuchs: Mr. J. M. Chalmers-Hunt (1970, *Ent. Rec.*, **82**: 301) has published the first record of this very local species in Kent, on a specimen from West Wickham (4.ix.63). I find that I had neglected to record one which came to my m.v. lamp on 2nd July 1960; it was named by comparison with bred examples from Horsell, Surrey, and further confirmed by Mr. Wakely; this should therefore be the earliest specimen so far known to have occurred in the county. In view of its abundance at one or two spots in London (Chalmers-Hunt, *l.c.*), the moth has probably by now gained a footing in some of the West Kent suburbs although it has not recurred to me at Blackheath. — A. A. ALLEN, 49, Montcalm Road, London SE7 8QG, 25.xii.74.